

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Meeting of the Commission

July 22, 2009

10:00 a.m.

James R. Thompson Center  
Room 5-300  
100 West Randolph Street  
Chicago, Illinois  
and  
Lincoln Land Training Center  
130 W. Mason Street, Room 104  
Springfield, Illinois

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Commissioners

*In Chicago*

Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain, M.D.

David Chang

Robert S. Enriquez

Marylee V. Freeman

Spencer Leak, Sr.

Munir Muhammad

Rozanne Ronen

Gregory Simoncini

Yonnie Stroger

Diane Viverito

*In Springfield*

Marti Baricevic

Staff

Reva Bauch

LaNade Bridges

N. Keith Chambers

Dr. Ewa I. Ewa

Michael J. Evans

Donyelle L. Gray

Bricia Herrera

Harriet Parker

Meghan J. Paulas

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Christine Welninski  
Stephanie Fajuri, Coles Fellow  
Erica Gelfand, Coles Fellow  
Deeba Yunus, Law Clerk

Members of the Public

Joseph Rivas, MD

I. Call to Order

On July 22, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., Acting Chairman Sakhawat Hussain called to order a meeting of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. Chairman Hussain announced that the meeting would be audio recorded and that recording equipment was running.

II. Consideration of Minutes

June 17, 2009

The minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2009 were approved. Motion made by Commissioner Freeman, with a second by Commissioner Stroger to approve the minutes as submitted by staff. Motion carried 11-0.

III. Staff Reports

A. N. Keith Chambers, Executive Director

Annual Report FY 2008-2009

Executive Director Keith Chambers reported on his meeting with the Publication Committee among other issues and turned a portion of his reporting time over to Commissioner Viverito, a member of the Publication Committee. On behalf of the Publications Committee, Commissioner Viverito expressed the goal to produce the Annual Report for FY 2008-2009 in a cost-effective and concise manner. Chairman Hussain established a timeline for review and completion of the Annual Report: By **August 12, 2009**, Executive Director Chambers is to send a draft of the Annual Report to the Publications Panel. The Panel is to edit the draft and return it to Executive Director Chambers. By **September 2, 2009**, Executive Director Chambers is to e-mail and mail the edited draft of the Annual Report to all Commissioners for review prior to the September 16, 2009 En Banc meeting. The Annual Report will be placed on the September 16, 2009 Meeting Agenda for consideration.

Lobbyist Contract Renewal

The contract renewal of lobbyist Mike Pollick will be placed on the September 16, 2009 En Banc agenda for consideration.

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B. Dr. Ewa I. Ewa, Chief Fiscal Officer

During the CFO's report, the Commissioners expressed their continued concern over the four not-yet-hired staff members. The Commissioners also expressed their continued desire to schedule a meeting with the Governor's Chief of Staff. It was decided the Executive Director will draft another letter addressed to the attention of the Governor's Chief of Staff, reiterating the need for a meeting between the Governor's Chief of Staff, the Executive Director, and the Acting Chairman of the Commission.

C. Michael J. Evans, Chief Administrative Law Judge

During Chief ALJ Evans's report, the Commissioners discussed the large number of cases pre-hearing from FY2007 to the present and concluded these statistics should be included in the planned letter from the Commission to the Governor's Chief of Staff.

D. Harriet Parker, General Counsel

The Commissioners discussed the August 11, 2009 celebration for the Summer Coles Fellows and the Law Student Extern. The Commissioners expressed their gratitude for the students' dedication to the Commission and excellent work product. The Commissioners determined by acclamation to each contribute to the August 11, 2009 luncheon as a token of gratitude to the students.

IV. New Business

Policy Regarding Mail Addressed to Individual Commissioners from Parties/the Public

The Commissioners discussed recently received mail addressed to individual Commissioners and sent to the Commission Office, as well as mail addressed and sent directly to the homes and or offices of some Commissioners, and proposed a protocol for disposition of such mail. Chairman Hussain stated that mail addressed to individual Commissioners should be opened, processed and sent to the individual Commissioner when appropriate and via fax if feasible. Commissioners who receive mail other than at the Commission Office should forward such mail to the Office of the General Counsel for processing. When appropriate General Counsel Parker will accept the Requests as filings and will respond to complaints and concerns. The Commissioners addressed the necessity of this policy to ensure that misdirected, but timely filed, pleadings are appropriately processed and to ensure impartiality.

V. Executive Session

The Commission entered Executive Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21). Motion to enter Executive Session made by Commissioner Freeman at 11:00 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Viverito. Motion carried 11-0. The open meeting resumed at 11:15 a.m.

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VI. Adjournment.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Motion made by Commissioner Muhammad, with a second by Commissioner Stroger. Motion carried 11-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Donyelle L. Gray  
Deputy General Counsel